AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A method of decreasing melanin content in a melanocyte, the method comprising contacting the melanocyte <u>via topical administration</u> with an effective amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of:

$$H_3C$$
 CH_3
 CH_3

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$$CH_3$$
 CH_3 CIV

$$H_3C$$
 CH_3
 CH_3

$$\begin{array}{c} H_3C \\ CH_3 \\ CH_3 \end{array} \qquad (VI)$$

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and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, the effective amount of the one or more compounds being sufficient to decrease melanin content in the melanocyte.

57-68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously presented) A method of reducing skin pigmentation, the method comprising contacting skin with a pharmaceutically effective amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of:

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and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, the pharmaceutically effective amount of the one or more compounds being sufficient to reduce skin pigmentation.

70-77. (Canceled)

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78. (Currently amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the melanocyte is in the skin of a mammal having a disease, disorder, or condition characterized by overproduction of melanin

hyperpigmentation or brown spots.

79. (Currently amended) The method of claim 69, wherein the skin is the skin of a mammal having

a disease, disorder, or condition characterized by overproduction of melanin-hyperpigmentation or

brown spots.

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